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imagery analysis report

Dagu Air Cushion Vehicle, China (S)

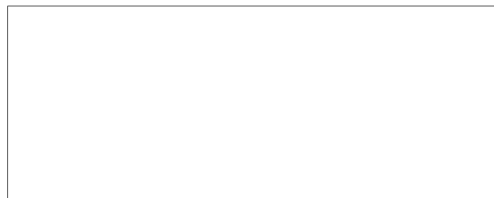
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DAGU AIR CUSHION VEHICLE, CHINA (S)

1. (S/D) A Chinese Dagu air cushion vehicle (ACV) was observed at the Qingdao Seaplane Station [REDACTED] The station is a base of operations for Madge amphibious aircraft.

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2. (S/D) The Dagu ACV was constructed at Dagu Shipyard Hsin Chiang [REDACTED] and was reported to have been launched in September 1979.¹ It is the newest and largest [REDACTED] of the four known Chinese ACVs; all but one have been observed at naval bases. It was probably taken to the Qingdao Seaplane Station because of the technicians and support facilities, such as launch ramps and aircraft engine maintenance located there. Such support is required because of the aircraft-type engines used on the ACV for both lift and forward thrust.

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3. (S/D) The vehicle was first observed [REDACTED] on the beach southeast of the main hangar building and at the same location on all subsequent coverage [REDACTED] The ACV may be undergoing evaluation for a variety of missions. It appears to be designed with both bow and stern ramps (Figure 1) for possible use in amphibious operations. No installed weapons were evident. There are presently no indications of further ACV construction at Dagu Shipyard; however, if after a successful period of trials and evaluation, the Chinese enter series production with this unit or a derivative, their ability to conduct amphibious operations in the strategic East and South China Seas will be greatly enhanced.

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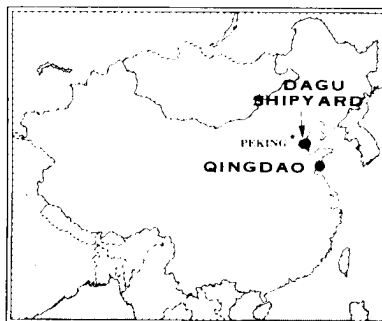
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1. NFAC, SI SIMR 80-001, *Scientific Intelligence Monthly Review*, 31 Jan 80 (SECRET)

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